

Message Text

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ACTION EA-01

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PRS-01 INR-01 /004 W

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O R 140530Z OCT 74 ZFF RUEHFO

FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO USINFO WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8021

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY SAIGONN

SECDEF WASHDC/OASD/PA

UNCLAS PHNOM PENH 13767

USINFO ALSO FOR VOA NEWSROOM, IOP/FW AND IEA

BANGKOK FOR HEDGES

BANGKOK, HONG KONG AND SAIGON FOR VOA CORRESPONDENTS

STATE FOR S/PRS AND EA/P

E.O. 11652: N/A

SUBJ: KHMER SITUATIONER, OCTOBER 14, 1974.

1. SIGNIFICANT MILITARY ACTIONS ARE REPORTED ON A WIDE FRONT IN CONTINUED FIGHTING IN CAMBODIA.

2. SEVEN ENEMY 107 MM ROCKETS HAVE LANDED WEST OF PHNOM PENH. TWO OF THESE STRUCK IN THE VICINITY OF POCHENTONG AIRFIELD, NEAR THE CONTORL TOWER. FOUR OTHER LANDED WEST OF THE AIRFIELD NEAR A MILITARY TRANSPORT UNIT AREA. THESE ATTACKS SUGGEST ENEMY INFILTRATION OF THE CAPITAL'S NORTHWEST DEFENSIVE PERIMTER.

. AT KOMPONG SPEU, THREE FANK SOLDIERS WERE KILLED AND TWO WOUNDED IN AN INCIDENT INVOLVING SOME DISGRUNTLED SOLDIERS AND THEIR BRIGADE COMMANDER OVER THE ISSUE OF NON-PAYMENT OF THEIR SALARIES. THE GOVERNMENT HAS REMOVED AND JAILE THE

BRIGADE COMMANDER, FIRECTED PAYMENT OF THE TROOPS, AND REASSIGNED THE MEN INVOLVED TO OTHER UNITS.

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4. AT PREY MULE, TWELVE KILOMETERS SOUTHWEST OF KOMPONG CHHNANG, 42 KC SOLDIERS ARE REPORTED KILLED DURING ATTACKS AT THAT POSITION. THIRTY OF THESE WERE KILLED DURING KAF AIR STRIKES.

5. THERE ARE CONFLICTING REPORTS ON THE CAUSE OF THE CRASH OF A KHMER AIR FORCE C-123 PLANE AT SVAY RIENG ON OCTOBER 12. PROBES ARE EXAMINING THE WRECKAGE OF THE CRAFT TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE PLANE WAS BROUGHT DOWN BY A SOVIET-TYPE, HEAT-SEEKING SA-7 MISSILE. THERE IS AS YET NO FIRM EVIDENCE THAT THIS WAS, INDEED, THE CASE. DAILY FLIGHTS IN AND OUT OF THE CITY SINCE THIS EPISODE HAVE ENCOUNTERED NO ENEMY FIRE.

6. ALONG ROUTE FOUR, ENEMY UNITS HAVE RETAKEN A KEY BRIDGE AT TALAT, WIDENING THE BREACH ALONG THIS HIGHWAY TO CAMBODIA'S SOUTHWEST COASTAL AREA. FANK UNITS HAVE WITHDRAWN TO A DEFENSIVE POSITION SEVERAL HUNDRED METERS EAST OF THE BRIDGE.

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